



# 2023-2024 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

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## Speech Rules, Policies and Bylaws

### Official Bylaws for Speech

All Speech participants must meet all the Eligibility Guidelines as stated in the MSHSL Official Handbook as identified below. [www.mshsl.org/governance](http://www.mshsl.org/governance)

#### See 100 Bylaws/200 Bylaws

- 101: Age
- 102: Attendance
- 103: Credit Requirements
- 104: Enrollment
- 105: Grade Level
- 106: Graduates of Secondary Schools
- 108: Scholastic Eligibility
- 110: Semesters Enrolled
- 111: Transfer and Residence
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### SPEECH GENERAL RULES

#### DEFINITION OF TERMS

REGION: The term "region" shall refer only to the administrative region and all administrative functions of regions.

SECTION: The term "section" shall refer to all geographic groupings of schools for competition.

- A. **Section Assignments:** Speech section assignments may be viewed on the Speech page of the MSHSL Website - [www.mshsl.org](http://www.mshsl.org). Click on "Competitive Section Assignments" link and select "Speech."

- B. **Community Standard Form:** The Speech Community Standard Certification Form is due to the League office *prior* to the first subsection/section competition.
- C. **Limitation on Participation:** No student may participate in more than one of the thirteen categories in any MSHSL speech contest. A contestant may participate in a one act play and/or debate as well as in speech activities.
- D. **Responsibility for Compliance with Rules:** Coaches and contestants are responsible for compliance with all rules that govern the speech activity.
- E. **Stage Properties:** No stage properties shall be used during a speaker's delivery, with the exception of Discussion, in which contestants may sit in chairs, and Informative, in which visual aids are allowed and may be 3-D. Books, notecards, and scripts are not considered properties, provided the script is used only as a script. If a student uses a script, she/he must hold the script and refer to it. **No part of an entry's body is to be considered a prop (such as hair, ear, etc.) Clothing, shoes, or jewelry are not considered part of an entry's body.**
- F. **Selection and Scripts:**
1. The selection (or cutting) submitted for a contestant at the first level of competition must be used at all levels for which the contestant qualifies.
  2. A student may not use the same cutting in more than one school year for any festival/invitational, conference, or MSHSL competition. This does not preclude using the same author or different parts of a novel, poem or play.
  3. The genre (literary classification) of a selection is determined by the classification identified by the publisher and/or the Library of Congress. There are some situations in which a selection crosses genre lines and can be appropriately entered in more than one category. Similarly, there are selections that may be appropriately entered as serious or humorous *depending on the cutting being used*.  
**If there are questions regarding the appropriate event(s) into which a selection may be entered, a ruling should be obtained from the MSHSL Speech Rules Clinician *well in advance* of the first level of competition. A copy of that ruling or published/Library of Congress classification should be carried by the Coach to all competitions for verification.**
  4. All prepared selections not written by the contestant [as required for Duo Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, and Serious Interpretation of Drama, Poetry, and Prose and for speeches examined in Great Speeches] must be publicly available ("published") in print or electronically (websites, ebooks, etc.). Texts available ONLY in audio/video recording (with no publicly available, verifiable transcription of the texts) may not be used because the texts cannot be verified. Scripts submitted to contest managers at all levels must include original, downloaded, or legally copied texts with clearly indicated sources for verification.
  5. Updated copies of scripts for all categories with the exception of Storytelling, Extemporaneous Speaking, Extemporaneous Reading, and Discussion must be submitted by coaches at each contest.
    - a. Informative Speaking, Creative Expression, Original Oratory, Great Speeches (including title(s) of speech(es), author, date, site of presentation and verification of required publication) must be submitted by coaches at contest. Submitted scripts must include citation of all quoted, paraphrased, or summarized materials. Direct quotations must be indicated by quotation marks. **Failure to do so will result in disqualification.**
    - b. For Serious Interpretation of Drama, Prose, Poetry, Humorous Interpretation of Literature and Duo Interpretation. Submitted scripts must include citation of

original sources from which the selections were taken. **Failure to do so will result in disqualification.**

- i. Because scripts and original published copies of selections are used to verify whether or not a student has violated time limits, great care must be taken to punctuate the text precisely as it was originally published.
  - ii. Because contestants in interpretation events present the published and copyrighted work of other writers, it is not acceptable to add to, "update," or modify the original publication's language except in the case of "cutting" language for time, community standards/objectionable language, or "tag line" consideration.
6. **Plagiarism** is a serious offense and cases of verified plagiarism must result in automatic disqualification.
7. Penalty for Rules Violation: The committee in charge of the tournament, along with members of the Rules Interpretation Committee, **must** penalize any student for violation of any rules. If the best credible evidence presented in a timely manner to the Rules Committee demonstrates that a student has committed a violation, the committee must disqualify the student unless the violation is one of the six exceptions listed below.

The following violations must result in the competitor's rank being adjusted to last in the round:

1. Violation of time limit.
2. Violation of Extemporaneous Reading teaser rule (a reader chooses to use a teaser before the introduction and does not repeat it after the introduction)
3. Violation of Extemporaneous Reading cutting rule. (a reader cuts a line or paragraph, reads more of the selection than is included in the drawn cutting, or rearranges the draw in any fashion.
4. Violation of Extemporaneous Speaking notes limit (a speaker uses more than one side of one 3" x 5" notecard in the presentation of the speech,
5. Violation of the Storytelling subplot/style/mood rule.
6. Violation of the prompting rule, in the specific instance where a student starts their speech without their script and retrieves it during their performance.

#### **Rank Adjustment Clarifications:**

- a. A contestant cannot be dropped lower than the lowest possible rank in the round. The drop in rank will be communicated to the tabulators by the Rules Committee. The tabulators will adjust the rankings for all contestants on each judge's ballot for the round in which the violation occurred. If a contestant is found to have violated any rule and is tied with a contestant who has not violated a rule, the ruling on the tie must always fall against the violator. A rule violator cannot win a tie.
- b. It is not the Rule Interpretation Committee's responsibility to warn a contestant who has violated a rule.
- c. The coach of the contestant must be notified of the rule violation before finalists are posted or, in the case of a violation during the final round, before contest results are announced.
- d. If there are more than one rank adjustment violation in the room, all violators must have their ranks adjusted. For example, if there are two violators in one room of six, then both violators will receive the rank of 6 and the lowest-ranked non-violator will receive a rank of 4.

In the event that a student is disqualified, the tabulators, upon being notified of the disqualification, will record (1) no ranking number in that round or subsequent rounds nor (2) total score of said contestant on the score sheet. "DQ" will be written in the appropriate box of competition on the score sheet. Any previous round scores earned by the contestant prior to the violation, shall remain on the score sheet. The tabulators will adjust the rankings for the other contestants on the specific judge ballot(s) as though the disqualified contestant had never competed.

- G. **Order of Speaking:** The order of speaking in each contest shall be determined by lot with the drawing to be done by the officials in charge of the contest or by a pre-established rotation schedule.
- H. **Prompting and Coaching:** No contestant shall be prompted or coached in any manner during the preparation period for draw events or during the presentation itself. If a student uses a script, she/he must hold the script at middle plane throughout the entire presentation and refer to it. In addition, students in draw events may not speak with or receive messages from anyone except the Draw Manager, Room Manager, or Judge from the time the draw takes place until the conclusion of the presentation.
- I. **Timecards:**
1. In all draw events at MSHSL speech tournaments, the following time cards must be used: 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, ½, and stop.
  2. In all non-draw events except Discussion at MSHSL speech tournaments, the following time cards must be used: 2, 1, ½, and stop.
  3. If time cards are used in Discussion, the following time cards must be used: 10, 5, 1, and stop.
- J. **Singing, Humming, Whistling:**
1. The use of vocal music is one of many possible enhancement strategies for a speech. In all events, the vocal performance of music (including whistling, humming, and singing) is permitted.
  2. The use of music must either be referenced in the stage directions or the directional narrative of the published work (ex: "John hummed quietly to himself") or be specifically published in the work.
  3. In categories where selections being performed are written by the contestant, any music that is not original to the performer will be counted as direct quotation.

**ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT MUSIC TO BE USED SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE MSHSL SPEECH RULES CLINICIAN WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE FIRST LEVEL OF COMPETITION SO THAT CLARIFICATION AND VERIFICATION CAN BE PROVIDED!**

- K. **Audience at Tournament Events:** All events are open to the public; therefore, contestants may observe other speakers in any event.
- L. **Introductions:** When an introduction is required, the student is permitted latitude in introductory technique so long as other rules are not violated.
- M. **Special Needs, Modifications, and Accommodations:** Coaches of contestants whose special needs require accommodation or modification of the contest requirements or procedures should notify contest managers expediently to make timely and sensitive accommodations or modifications possible.

## MSHSL SECTION SPEECH CONTEST ADMINISTRATION

- A. **Powers of Region Committees** (i.e., Region Management team for all section tournaments)
1. The Region Committee shall determine the site and the date for each contest and designate the judges to be used.
  2. The Region Committee shall determine the number of contestants for each Subsection to enter the Section contest.
  3. The Region Committee shall certify the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place contestant in each event to represent that Region and advance to the State Contest.
  4. Section rules will apply if the Region Committee has adopted a speech handbook otherwise MSHSL rules apply. [Timing rules may not be altered].
  5. General rules and policies may not be altered at subsection/section speech tournaments.
- B. **Board Policies:** It will be a violation of League policy for a member school or a representative of a member school to establish, distribute or accept any awards not provided by the MSHSL for Section or State Tournaments.  
All-star casts/performers will not be named in any MSHSL Tournaments.
- C. **Reports of Contests:**
1. Immediately after a Section Contest, the Manager must complete and submit the results electronically to the League Office.
  2. Immediately after a Section Contest, the Manager must send a certified report to the Region Secretary.
- D. **Rules Committee: Subsection and Section:** The Rules Committee shall be selected by the Contest Manager in advance of the contest. The committee must include at least three participating coaches who are knowledgeable about the contest rules. Alternate committee members must also be named. If any of the committee members cannot serve because of a conflict of interest, the alternates must serve on the Rules Committee.
- E. **Protests:** It shall be the function of the Protests relative to (a) violation of rules or time limits, (b) the validity of the selection for any speech contest, and (c) other potential violations of contest rules shall be the responsibility of the Subsection, Section or State Rules Committees to render decisions on protests or alleged violations of contest rules. All questions regarding rules violations must be resolved by the Contest Rules Committee *before* results are announced. Protests raised after the announcement of results shall not affect the outcome of that contest but may affect eligibility for the next level of competition.
- F. **Procedure for Dealing with Disputes:** All disputes or protests involving the Speech contest shall be directed to a Contest Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will review each allegation and make a recommendation to the Contest Manager, who must disqualify or penalize appropriately a contestant for a confirmed violation of the rules. Such procedures must be completed prior to the announcement of final results for that contest.

The Rules Committee or jury may consult with the Timekeeper, Contest Manager, Judge(s), or other personnel about the alleged violation. If a coach has obtained an advisory interpretation from the MSHSL Rules Clinician on an issue that comes before the Rules Committee, the advisory interpretation shall be considered persuasive authority, but the Rules Committee is not bound to follow the Clinician's interpretation.

A decision must be made and communicated to the Coach prior to the announcements of results for that contest.

## CONTEST EVENTS

A. The League shall hold contests in the following events:

1. [Creative Expression](#)
2. [Discussion](#)
3. [Duo Interpretation](#)
4. [Extemporaneous Reading](#)
5. [Extemporaneous Speaking](#)
6. [Great Speeches](#)
7. [Humorous Interpretation](#)
8. [Informative Speaking](#)
9. [Original Oratory](#)
10. [Serious Drama Interpretation](#)
11. [Serious Poetry Interpretation](#)
12. [Serious Prose Interpretation](#)
13. [Storytelling](#)

### 1. CREATIVE EXPRESSION

- Creative Expression is the performance of material written by the contestant. The objective is to encourage creativity in both writing and performance, through a variety of genre and performance styles.
- No more than 20% may be material from other sources. All materials quoted, paraphrased, or summarized from other sources must be documented in the written text.
- The mood may be serious, humorous, or both.
- An introductory statement, which may include a “teaser,” must precede the presentation.
- A copy of the script must be filed with the Contest Manager before each contest. Updated copies of the script must be submitted at Subsection, Section, and State levels.
- THE TIME LIMIT IS TEN (10) MINUTES, INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION. IF THE SPEAKER HAS BEEN WARNED THAT TIME HAS EXPIRED, THE SPEAKER MAY ONLY FINISH THE SENTENCE ALREADY BEGUN.

### 2. DISCUSSION

Discussion is an effort on the part of a small group to reach a solution to a problem through informal interchange of facts, inferences, and judgments. This method of discussion seeks consensus rather than majority rule. The focus of this event should be the encouragement of cooperation and critical thinking to arrive at the collective goal of better understanding and problem solving. The discussion will be task-oriented where participants act as members of a group whose goal is most frequently an agreed-upon statement of policy, rules, lists, etc., which may also include rationale.

The topic(s) for Discussion shall be approved each year by the Board of Directors.

The Discussion group shall be composed of not more than eight contestants. Additional sections may be scheduled if the number of contestants exceeds eight. The Discussion activity shall be conducted according to the following procedure:

- A study outline and bibliography of the main topic(s) and related sub-topics will be posted on the MSHSL website.
- Tasks for **MSHSL**-sponsored contests will be furnished by the League (as are cuttings and questions for other draw categories) and will not mandate any specific agenda. Invitational festival managers should create tasks for their festivals. Specific tasks will be drawn prior to each round of discussion.
- At no time should a Judge become a part of the discussion. Judges should not suggest an agenda, give an opinion, or give oral critiques. The discussants should control their own process of inquiry. Emerging leadership from within the group should develop. Management of time for that round should remain the responsibility of the discussants themselves.

The basis for judging Discussion should place emphasis on the task and social dimensions of group interaction. These questions may serve as a guide:

1. Did the discussant's contributions add to the group effort?
2. Did the discussant possess sufficient information, and was the information of high quality?
3. Did the discussant's contributions reflect an understanding of major issues?
4. Did the discussant's behavior reflect a respect for the dignity and worth of other participants?
5. Did the discussant exhibit active listening skills?

Judges must be given and must use the criteria listed on the "Individual Critique Sheet for Discussion."

Judge(s) may write a group critique sheet to be duplicated by the Contest Manager for each member of the Discussion group.

THE DISCUSSION PERIOD SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE HOUR (60 MINUTES).

### 3. **DUO INTERPRETATION**

- Duo interpretation features two students interpreting together one or more selections from a single published source or a single anthology of prose, poetry, and/or dramatic literature, serious and/or humorous, with literary merit and appropriate to the readers. Duo Interpretation is an oral interpretation event and shall be judged as such.
- The students' script may be limited to a single author or genre but may include material from more than one genre and/or author so long as the material comes from that single published source. Each student may portray one or more characters.
- An introductory statement, which may include a "teaser," must precede the presentation and may be delivered by either or both of the participants.

- There shall be no body contact between speakers, except during the introduction. Interpreters may refer to each other and make eye contact with each other during the introduction and/or transitions.
- A copy of the script must be filed with the Contest Manager before each contest. Updated copies of the script must be submitted at Subsection, Section and State levels.
- Should one original member of a Duo be unable to compete, a substitute may be named to perform in his/her place.
- THE MAXIMUM TIME LIMIT IS TEN (10) MINUTES, INCLUDING A REQUIRED INTRODUCTION AND NECESSARY TRANSITIONS. IF THE SPEAKERS HAVE BEEN WARNED THAT TIME HAS EXPIRED, THE SPEAKERS MAY ONLY FINISH THE SENTENCE ALREADY BEGUN.

#### 4. **EXTEMPORANEOUS READING**

- Participation in Extemporaneous Reading teaches a student to introduce and read excerpts from prose or poetry for the purpose of appreciation or enjoyment.
- Specific sources for reading will be announced in the fall of each year. The League Office will identify specific poems and stories for contests. NO CUTTINGS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE BEFORE THE ACTUAL CONTESTS.
- The student will declare, prior to each draw, his/her choice of genre.
- Thirty (30) minutes before the contest begins, the first reader shall draw three cuttings. The reader shall immediately choose one of them, and return the other two which will then be placed with the other cuttings remaining to be drawn. The cuttings chosen shall be recorded by the event manager. Each of the succeeding readers shall, at intervals of eight (8) minutes, in turn, follow the same procedure. The student may not perform a cutting that she/he has performed in any round of that competition. In the event that the student draws a previously performed cutting, she/he shall draw a substitute cutting.
- After the contestant has drawn a cutting, the student shall not confer or have any communication with a coach or others until the reading has been delivered. Each reader shall present the cutting draw slip to the Room Manager or Judge(s) in the round, if it is not electronically accessible.
- While the inadvertent skipping or substitution of a single word or phrase in an Extemporaneous reading may occasionally and understandably occur, students must be careful that entire sentences or more are not skipped during the presentation. Contestants must not read more of the selection than is included in the drawn cutting.
- For poetry, students must read selections in the order listed on the draw slip. For prose, students must start at the beginning of the prescribed cutting and read as much of the complete cutting as time permits. Allowable omissions would include the elimination of "he said," and "she said," once a character has been established or language objectionable to the contestant.
- An introductory statement, which may include a "teaser," must precede the presentation.
- "Teasers" must be a part of the actual drawn section of the story or poem, and the "teaser" passage may not be eliminated within the reading subsequently presented.
- Students are allowed to stop reading at any point within the last minute.
- THE ENTIRE DELIVERY TIME, INCLUDING THE REQUIRED INTRODUCTION, SHALL NOT



EXCEED SEVEN (7) MINUTES. IF THE SPEAKER HAS BEEN WARNED THAT TIME HAS EXPIRED, THE SPEAKER MAY ONLY FINISH THE SENTENCE BEGUN.

## 5. **EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING**

- The Extemporaneous Speech should be an original synthesis of current fact and opinion on a topic drawn by the contestant. Speakers may choose from either International or U.S. topics.
- The goal of this activity is the encouragement of extensive reading, understanding of many subjects, and the development of reasoned, supportable positions on current U.S. and international issues in the news. The Judge(s) should consider the quality of information presented by the speaker, together with the speaker's use of that information to support the thesis. Questions shall require persuasive rather than informative speeches. The contestant in Extemporaneous Speaking is responsible for:
  - A. Strict adherence to the question drawn.
  - B. Well-chosen information relative to the question drawn.
  - C. Organization of the material.
  - D. Effective delivery.
- The subjects for this event shall be taken from the following print and online magazines and newspapers, with an attempt to balance social, economic, and political issues: Economist, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Newsweek, New York Times, St. Paul Pioneer Press, Time, U.S. News & World Report, Wall Street Journal and Washington Post. The MSHSL will publish subject areas chosen from these publications each fall.
- The MSHSL will provide questions in both U.S. and International areas for each level of MSHSL competition. The questions will be furnished to the subsection and section Contest Manager prior to said contest.
- The order of speaking each round shall be determined by lot. Thirty (30) minutes before the contest begins, the first speaker shall draw three questions. The speaker shall immediately choose one of them and return the other two, which shall then be put with the other questions remaining to be drawn. The questions chosen shall be recorded by the Event Manager. Each of the succeeding speakers shall, at intervals of eight (8) minutes, in turn, follow the same procedure. In the event that the student draws a previously performed question, she/he may draw a substitute question. The student may not perform a cutting that she/he has performed in any round of that competition. In the event that the student draws a previously performed cutting, she/he shall draw a substitute cutting.
- During the thirty (30) minutes of preparation of the speech, students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals and online sources provided:
  - A. Printed texts are complete originals or photocopies of whole pages.
  - B. There is no written material on that original or copy other than highlighting in a single color and citation information (such as publication title and date).
  - C. Topical index may be present. No other material shall be allowed in the prep room other than stated above. Extemporaneous speeches, handbooks, briefs, and outlines shall be barred from the prep room. Outlines and notes created in the prep room during preparation time at the tournament are allowed.
  - D. Students are permitted the use of computers and internet to do research

during the preparation period and may use computers to retrieve already-stored information.

- E. The host school and/or tournament staff are not responsible for providing any facilities, equipment, internet access, or assistance in a contestant's use of their device.
- After the contestant has drawn a question, the student shall not confer or have any communication in any way with a coach or others until the speech has been delivered. A contestant may use one side of one 3" x 5" note card during the delivery of the speech.
  - Each speaker shall present the question drawn to the Room Manager or Judge(s) of the round, if it is not electronically accessible. Upon completion of the speech, each speaker shall immediately present any notes used to the Room Manager or Judge(s) who will present the same to the Contest Manager. The Judge(s) shall not be permitted to ask questions of the speakers.
  - THE SPEECH SHALL BE EXTEMPORANEOUS AND SHALL NOT EXCEED SEVEN (7) MINUTES IN LENGTH. SPEAKERS WARNED THAT TIME HAS EXPIRED MAY CONCLUDE WITH ONE FINAL SENTENCE.

## 6. GREAT SPEECHES

- Great Speeches is an event in which the contestant speaks about **either** a single speech OR an anthology of speeches (not to exceed three) related by common author, theme, or another element.
- The contestant's analysis should convey the delight, edification, and challenge of contemporary or historical public address.
- Judging should be on the general effectiveness of the student's interaction with the audience to share the greatness of the speech. The Judge's primary attention should be on the participant's judgment in choosing and editing the material, sensitivity to the author's ideas and purpose, and, especially, the speaker's analysis of historical potential, and/or rhetorical importance of the speech. Secondly, delivery emphasis should be on communication. Since this is not a prose interpretation event, posturing, impersonation, and imitation are to be avoided. Caution is given to judges that the word 'great' does not denote changing the world, but rather is worthy of our consideration or study.
- The student may analyze either a single speech or a set of up to three speeches.
- Each speech (public address) must have been delivered by the speaker before the speaker's intended original audience. For example, "Sermon on the Mount" is Biblical Prose; "Antony's Funeral Oration" is Shakespearean Drama.
- Information about each author/speaker, subject, original audience, and occasion must be included in an introduction. During the presentation, the contestant must also justify the selection for presentation to the contestant's immediate audience. The justification need not be an explicit statement but may include such subjects as the historical or potential importance, language style, rhetorical technique and audience appeal. Comments about textual accuracy and ghostwriting style may be included where appropriate. All materials quoted, paraphrased, or summarized from other sources must be documented both orally and in the written text.
- A minimum of 25% of the presentation must be the contestant's own material. How portions of the original speech text are incorporated into the participant's

presentation shall be at the discretion of the participant. Statements, analysis and exposition may be either interspersed throughout the presentation or contained in only one or a few portions of the presentation.

- **For purposes of documentation, the student is required to provide a citation indicating the source of the selected speech within the written and oral text of the student's speech. Recorded speeches may be used only if their texts have also been published in print or online.**
- The student may, but is not required to, use a rhetorical model.
- A copy of the script must be filed with the Contest Manager before each contest. Updated copies of the script must be submitted at Subsection, Section, and State levels.
- THE MAXIMUM TIME OF THE PRESENTATION SHALL NOT EXCEED TEN (10) MINUTES. IF THE SPEAKER HAS BEEN WARNED THAT TIME HAS EXPIRED, THE SPEAKER MAY ONLY FINISH THE SENTENCE ALREADY BEGUN.

## 7. HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION

- Humorous interpretation features a student interpreting a selection from published literature with the intent to amuse, give enjoyment, or create laughter.
- The student should be judged on ability to get and give meaning through the use of vocal and bodily expression. Poise, vocal and physical delivery, and appropriateness of the selection to the interpreter should be considered.
- The student must select material from a published source, either prose, poetry, or dramatic literature.
- An introductory statement, which may include a "teaser," must precede the presentation.
- A copy of the script must be filed with the Contest Manager before each contest. Updated copies of the script must be submitted at Subsection, Section, and State levels.
- THE MAXIMUM TIME OF PRESENTATION, INCLUDING THE REQUIRED INTRODUCTION, IS TEN (10) MINUTES. IF THE SPEAKER HAS BEEN WARNED THAT TIME HAS EXPIRED, THE SPEAKER MAY ONLY FINISH THE SENTENCE ALREADY BEGUN.

## 8. INFORMATIVE SPEAKING

- Informative Speaking is an event in which the student presents an original informative composition of which no more than 10% shall be direct quotation. Quality of thought, research, and composition, as well as delivery, should be considered by the Judges. The purpose of Informative Speaking is to present information that the audience may or may not possess and that the student believes important for the audience.
- Judges should consider the following:
  1. Appropriate choice of subject and information for the audience.
  2. Clear organization.
  3. Direct and communicative delivery manner.
  4. Predominantly serious informative purpose (which may include the use of humor).

5. Avoidance of predominantly persuasive subjects and techniques (Every Informative Speech contains some elements of persuasion).

- All materials quoted, paraphrased, or summarized from other sources must be documented in the submitted script (within the text or in a works cited listing or both) and orally. Visual aid source material must be documented in the submitted script (within the text or in a works cited listing or both) but does not need to be cited orally and/or visually during the presentation.
- The use of visual aids is optional. Visual aids may be two-dimensional and/or three-dimensional but may not violate law (weapons, drugs, for example). The use of animals or any additional people as visual aids is not allowed during the speech. Maximum set-up time is two (2) minutes. When set-up is completed or all of the set-up time has been used, timing the speaking begins. Expedient take-down is expected. The host school is responsible for communicating any limitations to visual aids dictated by their school policies. The host school is not responsible for providing any facilities, equipment, or assistance in a contestant's use of visual aids.
- A copy of the script must be filed with the Contest Manager before each contest. Updated copies of the script must be submitted at Subsection, Section, and State levels.
- On-the-spot audience surveys adapted to the speech as given, audience handouts, and active audience involvement are not permitted. The rule does not allow for any type of audience participation. The speech is to be a self-contained presentation—presented and controlled by the student.
- THE MAXIMUM TIME OF PRESENTATION SHALL NOT EXCEED TEN (10) MINUTES. IF THE SPEAKER HAS BEEN WARNED THAT TIME HAS EXPIRED, THE SPEAKER MAY ONLY FINISH THE SENTENCE ALREADY BEGUN.

9. **ORIGINAL ORATORY**

- Original Oratory is an event in which the contestant presents his/her own PERSUASIVE composition. Because these orations have been written by the contestants, judges should consider the high quality of thought and composition, as well as, communicative delivery. All materials quoted, paraphrased, or summarized from other sources must be documented orally and in the written text.
- The orator should not be expected to solve any of the great problems of the day but must offer some insight and guidance. The contestant should be expected to speak intelligently and with a degree of originality about the message chosen.
- The composition should be especially adapted to oral presentation, and the orator should employ a variety of persuasive skills and strive for eloquence in style. No particular manner of delivery is required, nor is any particular manner of content organization.
- No more than 10% of the student's composition shall be direct quotation.
- The student may not incorporate any type of audience participation in the speech.
- A copy of the script must be filed with the Contest Manager before each contest. Updated copies of the script must be submitted at Subsection, Section, and State levels.
- THE MAXIMUM TIME OF PRESENTATION SHALL NOT EXCEED TEN (10) MINUTES. IF THE SPEAKER HAS BEEN WARNED THAT TIME HAS EXPIRED, THE SPEAKER MAY ONLY FINISH THE SENTENCE ALREADY BEGUN.

## 10. SERIOUS DRAMA INTERPRETATION

- Serious Drama Interpretation uses any published selection of dramatic literature (plays, radio plays, television plays, or screenplays) with literary merit and appropriate to the reader. The term "dramatic" here refers to the genre of the literature and does not include prose or poetry that is serious. The mood of the *cutting* must be essentially serious.
- The student should be judged on ability to get and give meaning through the use of vocal and bodily expression. Poise, vocal and physical delivery, and appropriateness of the selection to the interpreter should be considered.
- The student must select material from a published source of dramatic literature (plays, radio plays, television plays, or screenplays)
- An introductory statement, which may include a "teaser," must precede the presentation.
- A copy of the script must be filed with the Contest Manager before each contest. Updated copies of the script must be submitted at Subsection, Section, and State levels.
- THE MAXIMUM TIME OF PRESENTATION, INCLUDING THE REQUIRED INTRODUCTION, IS TEN (10) MINUTES. IF THE SPEAKER HAS BEEN WARNED THAT TIME HAS EXPIRED, THE SPEAKER MAY ONLY FINISH THE SENTENCE ALREADY BEGUN.

## 11. SERIOUS POETRY INTERPRETATION

- Serious Poetry Interpretation features a student performing a selection or selections of published poetry. The mood of the *cutting* must be essentially serious.
- The student should be judged on ability to get and give meaning through the use of vocal and bodily expression. Poise, vocal and physical delivery, and appropriateness of the selection to the interpreter should be considered.
- Selections for poetry may include one poem or several clearly identified poems. Published poetry selections include novels in verse, with literary merit and appropriate to the reader. Serious dramatic literature written in verse, such as a tragedy by Shakespeare, is considered "Serious Drama" rather than "Serious Poetry." The titles and authors of each poem must be stated either in the introduction or throughout the performance.
- An introductory statement, which may include a "teaser," must precede the presentation.
- A copy of the script must be filed with the Contest Manager before each contest. Updated copies of the script must be submitted at Subsection, Section, and State levels.
- THE MAXIMUM TIME OF PRESENTATION, INCLUDING THE REQUIRED INTRODUCTION, IS TEN (10) MINUTES. IF THE SPEAKER HAS BEEN WARNED THAT TIME HAS EXPIRED, THE SPEAKER MAY ONLY FINISH THE SENTENCE ALREADY BEGUN.

## 12. SERIOUS PROSE INTERPRETATION

- Serious Prose Interpretation features a student performing a selection of published prose. The mood of the *cutting* must be essentially serious.
- The student should be judged on ability to get and give meaning through the use of

vocal and bodily expression. Poise, vocal and physical delivery, and appropriateness of the selection to the interpreter should be considered.

- Selections for prose may be any published selection of prose, fiction or nonfiction. "Novels in verse" are typically considered Serious Poetry. Any selection, with literary merit and appropriate to the reader, that is not poetry, a play or part of a play, or a delivered speech is considered prose.
- An introductory statement, which may include a "teaser," must precede the presentation.
- A copy of the script must be filed with the Contest Manager before each contest. Updated copies of the script must be submitted at Subsection, Section, and State levels.
- THE MAXIMUM TIME OF PRESENTATION, INCLUDING THE REQUIRED INTRODUCTION, IS TEN (10) MINUTES. IF THE SPEAKER HAS BEEN WARNED THAT TIME HAS EXPIRED, THE SPEAKER MAY ONLY FINISH THE SENTENCE ALREADY BEGUN.

### 13. STORYTELLING

- Participation in storytelling should train students to recreate a familiar story extemporaneously. Because this is not a recitation, the contestant will be judged on the ability to recreate the story in his/her own words, with emphasis on a direct conversational style and spontaneous bodily action.
- The contestant must maintain the story's mood and format and must deliver the story extemporaneously.
- The contestant must not add subplots or make revisions to the story's actual events that change the original plot or violate the story's style, intent, and mood. Cutting of a lengthy story is allowable to meet time constraints. The use of a concluding statement that ties back to the introduction is allowed but not required.
- A selected list of fifteen (15) stories will be announced in the fall of each year. Thirty (30) minutes before the contest begins, the first storyteller shall draw three titles. The storyteller shall immediately choose one of them and return the other two, which will then be placed with the other stories remaining to be drawn. The title chosen shall be recorded by the Event Manager. Each of the succeeding performers shall, at intervals of eight (8) minutes, in turn, follow the same procedure.
- In all rounds, including finals, in ALL levels of competition, a student may NOT repeat a story previously performed in preliminary round at that level of competition. In the event that the student draws a previously performed story, she/he shall draw a substitute story.
- After the contestant has drawn a title, the student shall not confer, or communicate in any way with a coach or others until the presentation has been delivered. Each storyteller shall present the storytelling draw slip to the Room Manager or Judge(s) in the round, if it is not electronically accessible. No books, notes or properties shall be used in the performance
- An introductory statement, which may include a "teaser," must precede the presentation.
- THE MAXIMUM TIME OF PRESENTATION, INCLUDING THE REQUIRED INTRODUCTION, IS SEVEN (7) MINUTES. IF THE STORYTELLER IS WARNED THAT TIME HAS EXPIRED, THE STORYTELLER MAY CONCLUDE WITH ONE FINAL STATEMENT.
- As requested by the Speech Advisory Committee, there will be no Readers in

Storytelling. The Tournament Committee asks that Judges have read the stories if they have indicated a willingness to judge this event at any level of competition

## **AWARDS**

Section:

Medals: To 1st - 6th place in each event

State:

Certificate of Participation: To each student participant

- Activities Director prints from the website (<https://www.mshsl.org/mshsl-certificates>)

Medals: To 1st - 8th place in each event

## **MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS DEVELOPED BY STUDENT ATHLETES (5-31-23)**

[www.mshsl.org/behaviorexpectations](http://www.mshsl.org/behaviorexpectations)

## **MSHSL STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT**

- A. Substitution: If a qualified contestant is unable to participate in the State Tournament, no alternate contestants will be placed into the competition.
- B. Coaching Aides: The following materials will be posted to the League website.
  - Discussion Outline
  - Listing of Selected Stories and Poems for Storytelling and Extemporaneous Reading
  - Extemporaneous Speaking Topics
  - Rules updates and interpretations of general interest.
- C. Information Relating to Contestants: No information shall be given to the Judge(s) to identify the contestant with the school she/he represents. The name of the student, title and author of the selection will be included in the program. Class "A" schools will vote for Class "A" tournament judges and class "AA" schools will vote for Class "AA" judges.
- D. Information Relating to State Speech Tournament Judges
  1. As with other levels of MSHSL competition, only judges registered on the MSHSL website shall be eligible to judge at the State Speech Tournament.
  2. Judges for the State Speech Tournament must be registered on the League's website by October 15 of the school year in which they wish to be considered.
  3. Judges must indicate their willingness to judge at the State Speech Tournament no later than November 1 of the school year in which they wish to be considered.
  4. Judges who meet items 1-3 will be listed on a survey to all registered speech schools.
  5. Registered speech schools will have one (1) vote per school to recommend up to forty (40) judges the school believes should be considered to judge at the State Speech Tournament.
  6. MSHSL staff and Rules Clinician will select the State Speech Tournament judges from among those who have indicated an interest in judging at the State Speech Tournament and have been recommended by registered speech schools.Judges are expected to review contest event rules and judges for Storytelling and Extemporaneous Reading are expected to read the selections prior to the Tournament.
- E. Room Manager
  - In the draw events of Extemporaneous Speaking, Extemporaneous Reading, and Storytelling, the timekeeper shall indicate by a show of a card each minute interval, including a card to indicate the final 30 seconds (1/2 minute) of the time allowed. In all other events, the timekeeper shall indicate the final two (2) minutes, one (1) minute and half-minute of the allowed time. The 30-second (1/2 minute) card will serve as a warning and should be clearly displayed by the timekeeper.

- In all events, the timekeeper will stand and remain standing when the time has expired. The contestant shall only complete the sentence already begun. In Storytelling and Extemporaneous Speaking, when a speaker is warned that time has expired, she/he may make a concluding statement (one sentence).

F. Speaking Assignments

- The Speakers in each event shall be arranged so that there will be a balance of first, second, and third place qualifiers in each competitive group. Students will compete in four (4) sections of six (6) students each for the preliminary rounds.
- A different section pairing rotation will be used for each event in the contest. In preliminary rounds, contestants from the same section will not be in the same competitive group. The speaking order shall be rotated for the second and third appearances so that no student would precede or follow the same student in the second or third rounds.
- The speaking order for the final round shall be determined by computer-generated random placement.

G. Critiquing: Judges will provide written critiques for the three preliminary rounds, but not for the final round of competition.

H. Tabulators: Tabulators will be hired to record and tabulate the results of the tournament each day.

I. Rules Committee

- A three-person Rules Interpretation Committee will serve at the State Speech Tournament to deal with questions regarding rules and regulations. Members will include the MSHSL Speech Rules Clinician or his/her designee and three other knowledgeable individuals appointed by the MSHSL. The Rules Committee shall be informed of their duties and be present on the designated day. If one or more cannot serve, the League shall appoint replacements. When a dispute is brought to the jury of appeals, the student's coach shall be invited to listen to the dispute and provide a brief statement before a ruling is made. In the case of a declared violation *or* a decision in a disputed situation that results in disqualification or rank adjustment, the affected contestant's coach will be notified.
- In the event that a student is disqualified, the tabulating committee, upon being notified of the disqualification, will record (1) no ranking number in that round or subsequent rounds, (2) total score of said contestant on the score sheet. "DQ" will be written in the appropriate box of competition on the score sheet. Any previous round scores earned by the contestant shall remain on the score sheet. The tabulating committee will adjust the rankings for the other contestants on the specific judge ballot(s) as though the disqualified contestant had never competed.

Example: If Contestant C has been disqualified, the actual recorded scores on the score sheet would be those in the right column.

	<b>Judge Rank</b>	<b>Adjusted Rank</b>
Contestant A	5	4
Contestant B	6	5
Contestant C	3	DQ
Contestant D	4	3
Contestant E	7	6



Contestant F	8	7
Contestant G	1	1
Contestant H	2	2

## **SPEECH RANKING AND SCORING PROCEDURE AT THE STATE TOURNAMENT TABULATION PROCEDURES**

The following terms may be used on event results sheet. These terms reflect tie-breaking procedures employed to select finalists or determine final placement.

### **Terms Defined:**

Actual ranks - those ranks, 1-8.

1. Judges' preference - used to break ties in final round where actual ranks indicate preference of the majority of the judges on the panel for one contestant over another in two (2) person "Rank Total" tie. Judges' preference is used to break tie between two (2) persons but may follow the procedure of "solving" three (3) or more person tie when down to two (2) contestants.
2. Reciprocal Conversion Factor - is used to convert rank to a percentage when judge's preference still renders a tie or more contestants are tied. (1st = 1.00; 2nd = .50; 3rd = .33; etc.)

### **RECORDING AND VERIFYING RESULTS**

1. Following each preliminary round, **actual** ranks 1-6 will be recorded and double-checked by the tabulation team.
2. If any preliminary round competition room contains fewer than 6 competitors, the lowest score any competitor in that event can receive that round is the lowest ranking in the smallest room. For example, if 3 rooms have 6 competitors and one have 5, no competitor will receive a score lower than 5 for that round.
3. The team will deliver the judges' ballots and the tabulation sheet for each event to the Tournament Manager.
4. The individual student critiques will be sorted into school envelopes using the school code number already on the critiques.

### **DETERMINING FINALISTS**

1. The single Judge in each preliminary round shall rank all contestants she/he hears in each section.
2. To determine which contestants shall participate in the final round, the Tabulating Committee shall add the three (3) actual ranks of each contestant in the event. The eight students with the lowest total score (sum of ranks) will advance to the final round.

3. Results from head to head matchups will be used to break ties. If a tie still occurs, or head to head cannot be used, the tabulators will use the average opponent rank of the speakers met in Rounds 1, 2, and 3 by each speaker in the tie. The speaker in the tie whose opponents have the lowest average ranks will advance. If a tie still occurs, reciprocal fractions of actual ranks will be used.
4. If a tie still occurs, the final round may be scheduled with fewer but not more than eight students.

#### **DETERMINING FINAL RANKING**

1. The five (5) Judges in the final round (without conferring) will use the same criteria as was used in the preliminary rounds in ranking contestants (ranking all 1st through 8th—no two alike).
2. After the final round, the tabulating committee will determine the state champion, runner-up, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth place winners in each of the thirteen divisions by totaling all three final round rankings for each contestant. The lowest total shall be 1st place, etc.
3. In the event of a two-way tie for a given place, the contestant preferred by the majority of the judges in the final round shall be awarded that place. This tiebreaker shall be of first priority and shall always be used to break two-way ties.
4. In the event of a three-way tie for a given place, when possible, the tie shall be broken based on judges' preference among judges in the final round. If judges' preference does not resolve the tie, reciprocal fractions of final round actual ranks shall be used. Reciprocal fractions of final round actual ranks shall be used in three or more-way ties as follows:  
*Reciprocal Conversion Values:*  
*1 equals 1.00; 2 equals .50; 3 equals .33; 4 equals .25; 5 equals .20;*  
*6 equals .16; 7 equals .14; 8 equals .12.*  
Rank the contestants according to the highest reciprocal fraction total. If any two contestants are still tied, use judges' preference of final round ranks to break the two-way tie that remains.
5. If a three-way tie remains after using reciprocal fractions, the total actual ranks of the three preliminary round judges will become the next tiebreaker.
6. If a three-way tie still remains, preliminary round head to head followed by preliminary round opponents ranks become the next tiebreakers.
7. If a three-way tie still remains, the tabulators will use the reciprocal fractions of actual ranks of all three preliminary rounds.

#### **DETERMINING FINAL TEAM RANKING**

1. Team Awards will be presented to the top three (3) schools at each of the MSHSL State Tournaments
2. Points would be awarded to teams based on students' placement in finals using the following system: 8<sup>th</sup> place=1 point, 7<sup>th</sup> place=2 points, 6<sup>th</sup> place=3 points, 5<sup>th</sup> place=4 points, 4<sup>th</sup> place=5 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place=6 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place=7 points, 1<sup>st</sup> place= 8 points
3. Teams will be sorted in order by total points to determine 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. If a tie occurs in the top three places, duplicate trophies will be provided, ties will not be broken.

▪ [MSHSL Behavior Expectations](#)

These policies “elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, members schools and their personnel,” consistent with the Minnesota State High School League’s Founding Purposes and the belief that sportsmanship needs to have a constant presence in all school-based activity programs. The League and its member schools work intentionally to create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for fine arts activities and sports in our schools and competitions.

*School officials are responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students, and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held. (Bylaw 409).*

### Behavior Expectations

To create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments in fine arts and sports in our school and competitions, I will:

- Lead by positive example and demonstrate respect and support for others.
- Follow all MSHSL, school and venue expectations.
- Refrain from using profanity or ethnic, racial, religious, ability or gender-based comments, posts or messages directed at participants, directors, coaches, officials, spectators, or team representatives.
- Act as a responsible and respectful digital citizen who positively uses social media platforms.
- Speak or act in support of others when they are harmed by words or actions.
- Honor each contest and all involved, including participants, directors, coaches, officials, spectators, and team representatives.
- Hold high standards for myself, engage positively and demonstrate sportsmanship.

### Requirements of Attendees

#### Prohibited Items

- Flags, whiteboards, large signs on sticks, signs with vulgar, obscene or inappropriate language or images, or that obstruct the views of others or similar items
- Balloons, confetti, glitter, baby powder, pom poms or other similar celebratory items
- Artificial noise makers (i.e., megaphones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks and other similar items)
- Drones and laser lights
- Firearms or other weapons
- Vapes, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis or illicit drugs
- The following are prohibited at MSHSL postseason events. These may be prohibited as determined by the venue during the regular season:
  - Backpacks and other bags
  - Outside food and drink
  - Cameras and tripods
  - Pets

#### Dress Code/Attire

- Spectators may not wear masks or costumes that limit the ability to identify individuals. Masking for medical purposes is allowed
- Spectators must wear clothing that covers the torso
- Clothing worn must not be vulgar, obscene, or inappropriate

#### Behaviors

- No one may interfere with the contest in any way
- Only members of the official squad may be on the contest surface
- The use of appropriate language is always expected. Profanity, negative chants, booing, trash talk, name calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable
- Respect the Flag and the National Anthem

\*Venues may have additional requirements and prohibited items.